2125 Ames St.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90027
January 12, 1978

Robert N. Werner, District Ranger
Tule River Ranger District
Sequoia National Forest
32588 Highway 190
Porterville, Ca. 93257

Dear Mr. Werner:

Thank you for the opportunity to present our ideas on how Mineral King and the surrounding National Forest land can be used to the best advantage and at the same time, preserved from degradation.

In our opinion, some of the lakes are being subjected to over-use. Monarch Lakes are especially degraded by litter. We feel one reason for this over-use is the fact that camping in the valley has been reduced. We understand there will be a further reduction of camp sites next summer. We feel the environment would be enhanced if more developed camps with sanitary facilities were provided in the valley. This should help take the pressure off the use the the lakes. The south end of the valley, as well as Sunny Point should be utilized. Perhaps walk-in camps between the pack station and the end of the road would help meet the need for back packing space. Some developed camps are presently limited to day-use only. Since only 400 picnickers were registered for those camps during 1976, it seems that these camps would be better used by allowing over-night camping. We also feel restricting cars to only 2 lots adds to the dust and degradation of the valley. There are many areas beside the road which should be opened to over-night parking.

We do not feel the demands of all special interest groups for land use can be met and still have the environment preserved, but we do feel more could be done to accommodate the public at Mineral King, and at the same time, cut down on pollution. Again, thank you for this opportunity to present our ideas.

Sincerely,

Richard Koch, M.D.

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Jean Koch

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